



**aspect**

Treetop  
School



Every **aspect**  
of our school

a different  
**brilliant**<sup>®</sup>

Understanding,  
engaging and celebrating  
the strengths, interests and  
aspirations of people  
on the autism spectrum.

## Acknowledgment of Country

Autism Spectrum  
Australia (Aspect)  
acknowledges the  
Traditional Custodians  
of the lands on which  
we work and live.

We pay our respect to  
their Elders past and,  
present.



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**Aspect Treetop School**  
87 Anzac Hwy  
Ashford SA 5035  
**Phone: (08) 7326 0200**



## Welcome to Aspect Treetop School

We understand the uniqueness of every child, value their individual strengths, interests and aspirations and we celebrate the 'different brilliant' of everyone.

# Meet our Principal



Aspect Treetop School is proud to be the only autism-specific education program for students from Reception to Year 10 in Adelaide.

We understand the uniqueness of every child, value their individual strengths, interests and aspirations and we celebrate the 'different brilliant' of every child.

Success in our school is a partnership between our students, staff and families. Embracing each student's individuality and engaging them through their special interests makes our teaching unique and very rewarding.

Our dedicated and knowledgeable staff which comprises both teaching and non-teaching staff and a learning support team of a psychologist, speech pathologist and occupational therapist are committed to ensuring our students achieve their potential in a safe and rewarding learning environment.

We offer small class sizes with two educators, allowing staff to individualise the learning approach for each student. Accommodations are provided for each student's unique learning needs and differences are respected, understood and embraced. We offer quality teaching through the unique combination of the Aspect Comprehensive Approach (ACA) and the Australian Curriculum. This approach provides students with many opportunities to experience a variety of programs and activities to enhance their learning. The Five Point Star is a person-centred framework and is at the centre of the ACA. It is through the Five Point Star that staff develop a comprehensive and positive understanding of each student they support.

As Principal, I have an expectation that quality programs are delivered which have a positive impact on each student in our care. Our priority is providing quality programs customised to develop each student's speech and learning abilities, social and emotional learning, and promote engagement in each of the curriculum learning areas. Our purpose-built gym, cooking facilities and community participation allows our students to generalise skills learnt in the classroom and promotes independence.

I encourage you to call our school and find out more about the autism-specific programs our terrific Treetop team delivers and the positive impact our program can have for your child. We look forward to hearing from you and will gladly answer any of your questions.

Kaye Perry  
School Principal

# About our school

**Aspect Treetop School in Ashford, SA was established in 2016 and provides dynamic, individualised learning for students on the autism spectrum with a caring and nurturing approach.**

**Our main campus proudly offers 14 classes for students from Reception to Year 10, with current students' age ranging from 5 to 16 years.**

Our highly skilled staff are committed to continual improvement and value the importance of positive home/school relationships. We work closely with students and their families to develop confidence and skills that will support transition to less specialised settings and inclusion into a student's local community in the future.

Aspect Treetop School is committed to the provision of contemporary and progressive education specifically for students on the autism spectrum. We have created a setting where the unique strengths and interests of all students is used to drive their learning. We are a vibrant school that thrives on personalising learning and using evidence-based and informed best practice in autism. Students are encouraged to become self-determined learners through the provision of individualised and tailored learning programs.

*"The transition was unbelievable. They came and did a home visit. Aspect was just so incredibly holistic and supportive from the get-go. We shared with them some of our experiences and some of the things that we were feeling uncomfortable about, and how they would manage my son's needs and behaviour. And they just reassured us every step of the way." – PARENT*

*"The IP meetings are very good. They're very structured. The information is collaborative between families and teachers... They do those quite well and I'm very impressed with that." – PARENT*

## Focusing on transitions

The primary focus of Aspect schools is to help students develop the skills to become as independent as possible and to enable them to succeed in the wider community.

Aspect Treetop School has a transition focus aimed at preparing children and young people for non-autism specific educational environments, whether this is in mainstream, supported classes or general disability classes.

Future planning and transition from an Aspect school into a non-autism specific education setting or into a post school program is part of the Individual Plan (IP) process for each student and their parents, guardians or the person responsible. The student's readiness for transition and the type of placement most suitable for each individual student will be discussed with their parents, guardians or the person responsible at each student's Individual Plan (IP) meeting.

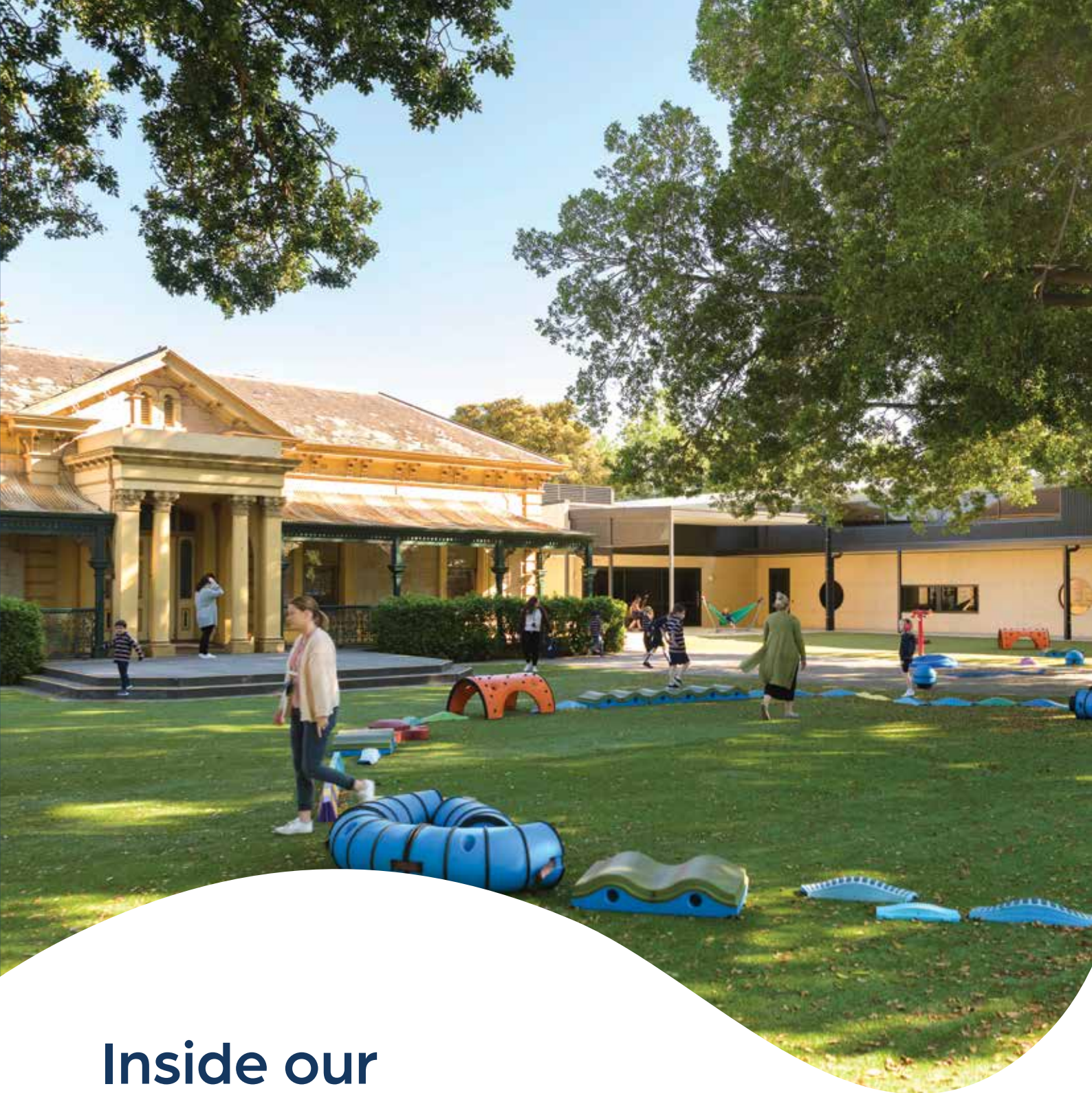
## Planning made personal

Individualised planning is the most critical consideration in educational intervention for individuals with autism. While all children on the autism spectrum share many common traits, each individual child possesses his or her own unique profile of strengths, difficulties and learning styles.<sup>1</sup>

A 'one size fits all' approach will never meet the needs of all students at all times. Rather, Aspect recognises the importance of individualised planning in promoting the potential of every learner.

Individualised Plans (IP) form the cornerstone of the approach adopted in Aspect schools. IPs are developed collaboratively with parents and students and are based on developmental and/or functional assessment. The individual planning process is ongoing and dynamic.

1. Le Roux et al., 1998; Siegel, 2003.



# Inside our classrooms


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Typically, classes are small, with around six students, so everyone gets more intensive individual support.

The classroom environment is purpose-built and carefully structured, with clearly defined work stations and autism-specific supports and strategies – such as calming spaces, key visuals and established routines.

## **Aspect Treetop School has recently upgraded their facilities.**

We have four new classrooms, a purpose-built gym and student kitchen. All remaining classrooms have recently been refurbished with special consideration being given to the autism specific supports our students require to promote independence and success.



*We run coffee mornings, run parent groups, grandparent groups and things like that so they can support each other. We've had parents connect as Facebook groups and do little plays."*

– STAFF MEMBER

*"The teachers communicate with me whenever something happens, both positive and negative. I have found that its been really good. It made me realise that I have made the right decision."*

– PARENT

*"They transitioned him from the main site at the end of the year last year, and he went to satellite class at the beginning of year 2. He was really nervous about another move. So, they did a lot of work to help him establish a sense of safety, give him all of the information about what he could expect, give him options, and what he could do when he's feeling overwhelmed.*

*He was really into Harry Potter then. And the teacher at the satellite class actually sent a letter in the school holidays to my son saying that he has been accepted into the School of Witchcraft and Wizardry."*

– PARENT

**Our purpose-built school located in Ashford is the ideal location to start your child's education journey in a close-knit, caring community.**

# Why choose our school?

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## **We understand autism like no other school**

Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) has been leading the way in providing services to people on the autism spectrum for 50+ years – and we offer the largest autism-specific education program in Australia. Our students benefit from decades of experience and research into how to best support people on the autism spectrum. Everything we do is evidence-informed and aims to give students the best opportunities possible throughout their lives.

## **Get a great education, tailored to you**

Aspect is a registered and accredited school with highly trained, capable teachers who are passionate about what they do. We follow the Australian Curriculum and we carefully adapt learning and development based on each individual student's strengths and interests. Every student therefore has a positive experience that is personalised for them.

## **A community where you'll feel right at home**

We're more than a school – we're a close-knit, caring community of families and carers with similar experiences. When you join us, you'll have an instant support network to share your journey with Aspect and beyond. Together, we share experiences and advice and celebrate milestones and achievements.

## **The conversation is always open**

Communication is a key part of a student's education to make sure we're on the same page – and at Aspect, we're open, honest and supportive at all times. We encourage ongoing two-way conversations with every family, so it's never hard to bring up an issue or ask a question. After all, we're here to help.


## **The journey doesn't end with us**

A student's education journey usually has a few key transition points, and at Aspect, we are here to support you through these times of change.

That includes coming into our school, and going out of our school into other educational environments. We also support students for up to 12 months after they've transitioned out of an Aspect school.

## **We work in partnership with the 'home team'**

In 2022 Aspect finalised our Working in Partnership Charter which provides an overarching set of principles to guide Working in Partnership at Aspect. This charter has been rolled out across the organisation and provides guidance and support to Autistic and non-Autistic staff around what working in partnership looks like.



*"As a parent, just knowing that he'd be supported, knowing that he's somewhere where he's understood, and knowing that the teachers are working as a team to help bring out the best in my child... it's been amazing."*

— PARENT



# Your need-to-knows

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## School hours

Official school hours are 9:00am to 2:50pm. Students arrive at school in the morning between 8:50am – 9:10am and depart between 2:50pm – 3:00pm.



## Wet weather days

In the event of wet weather, students will work and play inside their classroom or the gym, supervised at all times by Aspect staff.



## Timetable

Each term parents will receive a copy of the class timetable as well as a term overview.



## Parent info and meetings

IP meetings are held with the teacher in Term 1 and a review meeting in Term 3.

Teachers, Student Support Officers and families have the opportunity to meet with each other in the first two days of the school year. During this time, the Five Point Star is discussed.



## What to wear

Aspect students are encouraged to wear the full Aspect Treetop School uniform at all times. Please contact the school directly regarding uniforms.



## Drop off and pick up

Students are dropped off and picked up from school by parents.



## Staying in touch

The See-Saw app is used as the communication method for students and families at Aspect Treetop School. The teacher will correspond via the app approximately three times per week. Administrative information is communicated via TASS which is Aspect's school management system. If there is an urgent matter, please call the school office on (08) 7326 0200.



# How our enrolment works:

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1.

## Come to a school info session

Give us a call on (08) 7326 0200 to find out when the next one will be held.

2.

## Join the wait list

To register a student, just fill out a registration form and pay a \$200 registration fee. You can get the form at the school info session or by contacting the school.

3.

## A spot opens up

When a position becomes available at the school, the School Enrolment Committee considers all the students on the waitlist. This decision is made based on a number of factors – it's not simply on a 'first come, first served' basis.

4.

## Family interview

Before a student is officially offered a place, they may be invited to meet with our team (together with family or carers).

5.

## Enrolment offer

Once there's a place available, we'll send a formal letter of offer and an Enrolment Contract to the student's parents or guardians. You'll need to accept the offer by signing and returning the Enrolment Contract and paying the non-refundable enrolment fee.

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## Who is eligible?

### Eligible students:

- Are Australian citizens, permanent residents of Australia or hold an eligible Australian visa.
- Have had a formal diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder in the last two years.

*When a child is deemed eligible, they will be registered on the school's waiting list. The order of placement on the waiting list does not determine the order of an enrolment offer.*



# Aspect's approach

Aspect's approach draws on 55 years of expertise in supporting Autistic people of all ages and their families. It outlines the key principles that guide how we provide best practice supports and services to Autistic participants, students, and their families or carers. We take the time to understand how each Autistic person experiences the world, using their strengths, interests, and aspirations to shape individualised supports. Our practices are underpinned by the latest evidence, informed by the individual and their support networks, and are continuously adapted to meet each person's unique needs.

## The Five Point Star

The Five Point Star is our relationship-based approach to understanding and supporting students on the autism spectrum. The approach recognises the strengths of Autistic students – and also that Autistic students and non-Autistic people need to work together to understand each other, and to adapt to meet each other's preferences and needs. Aspect staff collaborate with students to develop their Five Point Star profiles, which are used to guide positive empathetic trusting relationships.

Every individual on the autism spectrum has the right to be an active participant in the community and to make choices about things that matter to them.

## Our guiding principles

- We focus on the strengths and interests of each student.
- We work in partnership with students, their families and their communities.
- We work to understand students from their perspective.
- Our approach is autism-specific.
- Our research focuses on best practice.
- We expect positive change and progress.
- Together we can achieve positive outcomes.

## Our values

We are passionate about people, about being positive and about what's possible.

Aside from our educational program, Aspect provides a number of services that may come in handy for students and families, now or down the track.

# What else does Aspect offer?

## Assessments

Aspect offers autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and cognitive assessments in person and via telehealth. Children diagnosed early can access services that will significantly improve their prospects for a meaningful life. An assessment provides teachers and schools with information that will allow them to more effectively support your child, and you will gain a better understanding of how your child processes the world.

Aspect also offers review assessments for those already diagnosed. These assessments provide updated information about their strengths and differences, and include recommendations to assist with support planning. Such an assessment can be useful at times of transition (e.g. when commencing primary school, high school or postschool planning) or to assist in applications for funding for autism (e.g. NDIS, Disability Support Pension, school supports, etc.).

## Therapy

Aspect Therapy is a registered NDIS provider with a large team of allied health professionals (speech pathologists, occupational therapists, psychologists and social workers) and educators.

Together, we develop and deliver individualised and small group autism-specific therapy and positive behaviour support.

## Workshops

Aspect offers a broad range of autism-related workshops and webinars for parents, carers, educators and health professionals. We deliver practical, real-world solutions to benefit families, communities, professionals and organisations.



For the full range of Aspect services, please scan the QR code or visit [aspect.org.au](https://aspect.org.au)



[aspect.org.au](https://aspect.org.au)  
+61 1800 277 328  
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